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SCHOOL
AND
FINANCIAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OF BENNINGTON,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
MARCH 1st, 1886.

ANTRIM, N. H.:
S. N. BALL, PRINTER.
1886.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

Citizens: We submit the following facts and suggestions in regard to the schools of the town. The number of names on the Roll of Honor, and the items contained in table given on another page indicate a good attendance with a fair degree of interest.

The schools in Dist. No. 1. have been under teachers who, without exception, have been zealous and faithful, having, to be sure, that amount of fallibility which school-teachers may be expected to possess in common with other human beings. The scholars appear generally to have made good progress.

In the primary department interest has been increased by the use of the new Reading Chart. In the grammar department, the class in language study has been one of special interest and value, being nothing more nor less than a practical drill in speaking and writing our mother tongue.

District No. 2 has been blessed with an increase in its number of scholars. In the summer term there was from some cause a dropping off in attendance at the latter end. Not having been able to visit the school at the close, we cannot judge of its success. The winter term was very successful, showing a marked degree of punctuality and interest.

The great obstacles to the success of our schools are tardiness and non-attendance. The regulation respecting tardiness introduced during the last term reduced the cases of tardiness about three per week (as the table will show). More needs to be done in that line. We have done something toward getting in the absentees, but have not thought it our duty to act the part of truant officers. Our state has an excellent law regarding school-attendance, and if this town will not see that it is enforced, it must take the consequences.

The school registers show many cases of what must be unnecessary absence ; and we earnestly commend to town or district the forming of some regulation to prevent it. Schools won't regulate themselves and it is the business of citizens to see that they are regulated.

Our schools seriously need two things, a *Code of Rules* and a *Course of Study*. Your committee attempted at the beginning of the year to do something toward supplying this need, but found they could not do much without further acquaintance with the schools. They have collected some material which they will be happy to put into the hands of the new school board to help them do this work.

We congratulate the town that the district system has been abolished and henceforth the entire management of the schools is to be placed in the hands of a school board. If we had been under that system this year we might have escaped some of the most unfortunate difficulties we have encountered.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Heald,	}	School Committee.
S. M. Taylor,		
Edward Finlay,		

ROLL OF HONOR.

District No. 1. Primary department. 1st term. J. Harvey Balch, Fred L. Eaton, Willie J. Taylor, Ethel Burt, Daisy Dickey, Alice George, Emma George, Katie Twitchell.

2nd term. Frank Dickey, Fred Eaton, J. Harvey Balch, Emma George, Alice George, Daisy Dickey, Evie Stearns.

3rd term. Daisy Dickey, Nellie Scarbo, Mamie Scarbo, Holmes Avery, Harvey Balch, Frank Dickey, Richard Finlay.

Grammar department. 1st term. John Eaton, George Foote, Scott Knight, George Smith, Lottie Balch, Mabel Dickey, Hattie Kimball, Lillian Lawrence, Lilla Martin, Florence Twitchell, Bertha Twitchell.

2nd term. John Eaton, Scott Knight, Lottie Balch, Florence Twitchell, Bertha Twitchell, Hattie Kimball, Winnifred Lakin.

3rd term. Winnifred Lakin, Scott Knight.

District No. 2. 2nd term. Charles H. Colby, James Silver, Joseph E. Silver, Charles A. Silver, Mary E. Silver, Catharine A. Silver.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

SCHOOL	Length of School in Weeks.	Total Membership.	Average Membership.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Daily Attendance.	Number who have not been absent.	Number of instances of Tardiness.	VISITS.		
								By School Com.	By Others.	Total.
Dist. No. 1.										
Primary.										
First Term.	8	44	40	36	90	8	76	8	16	24
Second Term.	12	48	41	35	85	7	79	12	39	51
Third Term.	8	35	31	28	90	7	27	12	27	39
Grammar.										
First Term.	8	23	23	21	91	13	10	9	34	43
Second Term.	8	25	22	21	90	10	70	11	27	38
Third Term.	12	23	22	21	91	7	72	7	32	39
Dist. No. 2.										
First Term.	6	8	6	5	85	0	9	1	16	17
Second Term.	6	8	8	7 ⁵⁹ ₆₀	99 ⁷ ₁₁	7	4	2	7	9

FINANCIAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 3D, 1886.

Selectmen to the town,

DR.

To uncollected taxes on H. J. Burt's list of 1880,	\$ 34 20
On J. F. Dodge's list of 1883,	220 26
“ G. P. Griswold's list of 1884,	40 30
“ “ “ “ “ 1885,	3,393 17— \$3,687 93

CR.

By paying Town Treasurer from J. F. Dodge's list of 1883,	\$ 22 97
Paid Town Treasurer from G. P. Griswold's list of 1884,	36 62
Abatement on Griswold's list of 1884,	3 68
Paid Treasurer on Griswold's list of 1885,	3,050 00
Uncollected on Griswold's list of 1885,	300 23
Abatement on Griswold's list of 1885,	42 94
By paying Treasurer from Burt's list, 1880,	5 43
Uncollected on Burt's list of 1880,	28 77
“ “ Dodge's list of 1883,	197 29— \$3,687 93

G. A. Whittemore, Town Treasurer, to the Town,

Dr.

To balance in Treasury March 3, 1885,	\$	929	55
To cash from County for support of pau-			
pers, Dimond family,		58	35
G. Brown, license pool table,		10	00
State Treasurer, railroad tax,		20	50
“ “ Savings Bank tax,		591	58
“ “ Literary Fund,		60	39
“ “ bounty on wild			
animals, 1884,		10	60
1885,		2	20
Frank Hall, Janitor Town Hall,		40	75
Dodge, collector 1883,		22	97
Burt, collector 1880,		5	43
Griswold, 1884,		36	62
Griswold, collector 1885,		3,050	00
S. B. Strickland, license pool			
table,		8	30-
		\$4,847	24

Cr.

MONEY PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

H. J. Burt, Auditor,	\$	1	00
Hartwell Lakin, Auditor,		1	00
H. J. Burt, Supervisor,		4	00
Moses Newton, “		4	00
A. M. Dodge, Librarian,		26	00
Wm. H. Dariah, Town Clerk,		25	00
J. H. Heald, School Committee,		15	00
G. A. Whittemore, Town Treasurer,		40	00
Wesley Wilson, 1st Selectman,		54	87
B. F. George, 2d “		44	00
E. I. Dodge, 3d “		36	15
Wesley Wilson, Overseer of Poor,		2	00
Frank P. Hall, Janitor Town Hall,		21	50
B. F. George, services as Moderator,		2	00
G. P. Griswold, collecting taxes,		58	38-
		\$334	90

NOTES AND INTEREST PAID.

By paying Wesley Wilson, interest,	\$ 25 00	
Clara R. Whittemore,	50 00	
William Eaton, note,	840 00	
“ “ interest,	33 76	
Dorcas P. Flagg, principle,	250 00	
John W. Flagg, “	250 00	
“ “ “ interest,	53 76	
Dorcas P. Flagg, “	47 04	
Alfred Rogers “	18 40	
Clara R. Whittemore, interest,	21 33	
Interest on Town Bonds,	400 00	
Cong. Society. Dodge note,	8 00—	\$1,997 13

Non-resident Highway Receipts, \$85 22

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

By paying B. D. Felch, labor on road,	\$ 3 75	
“ “ “ repairing road machine	2 25	
Chas. Whittemore, labor on road,	6 00	
A. W. Eaton, “ “ “	6 75	
Geo. E. Colby, “ “ “	4 50	
Moses Newton, “ “ “	17 50	
B. D. Felch, “ “ “	5 77	
“ “ “ “ “ “	4 50	
David Roach, “ “ “	3 60	
J. G. Hudson, “ “ “	26 00	
“ “ “ “ “ “	12 50	
Levi Colby, “ “ “	3 00	
Alfred Gray, “ “ “	11 50	
E. I. Dodge, “ “ bridge,	4 50	
John W. Flagg, “ “ culvert,	20 50	
Levi Colby, “ “ “	28 00	
C. B. Stewart, “ “ bridge,	6 00	
Wesley Wilson, “ “ “	10 00	
J. L. King, lumber,	10 38	
“ “ “ “	12 45	
Nathan Whitney,	9 70	
J. C. Dodge,	20 02—	\$229 17

BREAKING ROADS.

By paying John Goodhue,	\$1 80	
James Quimby,	2 25	
G. E. Woodbridge,	1 00	
A. W. Eaton,	3 85	
Levi Colby,	3 30	
D. O. Dodge,	2 00-	\$14 20

SCHOOL ORDERS.

By paying Levi Colby, District No. 2,	\$ 60 02	
Edward Finlay, " " 1,	437 87-	\$497 89
By paying Geo. E. Colby, School-house tax in District No. 2,		\$170 00
By paying bounty on wild animals,		\$2 20

EXPENSES FIRE DEPARTMENT.

By paying Frank B. Gould, oil, etc.,	\$ 2 18	
F. M. Twitchel, clerk,	68 25	
F. B. Gould, taking care engine,	25 00	
G. A. Whittemore, rent eng'e house,	18 00	
F. B. Gould, oil, etc.,	2 02	
" " wood and sawing,	2 50-	\$118 25
By paying Daniel Bartlett, veteran soldier,		\$62 00

SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

By paying Moody Stiles,	\$2 00	
S. B. Strickland, putting up tramp,	4 00-	\$6 00

WATERING TROUGHS.

By paying Moses Newton,	\$3 00	
William Taylor,	3 00-	\$6 00

PUBLIC TAXES.

By paying County tax,	\$349 45	
State tax,	480 00-	\$829 44

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

By paying Moses Newton, repairing sleigh,	\$	1 00	
B. D. Felch, housing and repair-			
ing road maching,		2 50	
Expenses collecting R. R. & S. B. tax,		25	
Edson C. Eastman, stationery,		2 51	
Fuel and oil Town Hall,		11 48	
S. D. Downes's bill,		3 56	
William Taylor,		3 50	
G. M. Brown, team,		3 00	
G. M. Brown, damage to sleigh,		2 00	
Dr. Christie, returning births, etc.,		1 75	
Library Committee, for Library,		10 00	
J. H. Heald, school notices, etc.		1 00	
S. N. Ball, printing town reports,		16 00	
“ “ “ notices,		50	
Wm. H. Darrah, recording license,		50	
J. H. Heald, team to visit schools,		1 50	
F. M. Twitchel, repairing carriage,		5 70	
G. W. Taft, steel for road machine,		10 00	
E. W. Baker, for fire extinguisher,		45 00	
E. I. Dodge, shingling hearse house,		2 50	
“ “ “ for shelt, etc., for			
fire extinguisher,		75	
D. O. Dodge, wall at Society			
Land Cemetery,	50 00-	\$175 00	

RECAPITULATION.

Money and receipts put into the Treasurer's	
hands from March 3d, 1885, to March	
3d, 1886,	\$4,847 24

CR.

By paying the following sums :

Salaries of Town Officers,	\$ 334 90
Notes and interest paid,	1,997 13
Non-resident Highway Receipts,	85 22
Roads and Bridges,	229 17
Breaking Roads,	14 20
School Orders,	497 89

School-house tax in District No. 2,	170 00	
Bounty on wild animals,	2 20	
Expenses Fire Department,	118 25	
Daniel Bartlett, veteran soldier,	62 00	
Support of Paupers,	6 00	
Watering Troughs,	6 00	
Public Taxes,	829 44	
Miscellaneous Expenses,	175 00-	\$4,527 40

Balance in Treasurer's hands,		\$319 84
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ABATEMENTS.

Griswold's list of 1884,

Warren H. Dow,	\$2 20	
Clarence Sargent,	1 48-	\$3 68

Griswold's list of 1885,

Frank P. Bartlett,	\$ 1 35	
A. W. Ames,	2 43	
Chas. Burtt,	1 35	
Betsy Burtt,	5 54	
Amos Eaton,	1 35	
Geo. W. Ross,	2 62	
Joseph Rogers,	1 35	
Clarence Sawyer, paid in Antrim,	1 35	
Herbert Sargent,	1 35	
John Welch, paid in Hancock,	1 35	
James Shea, " " "	1 35	
Mrs G. W. Green, overtax,	16 00	
Fred Newton, " "	3 20	
Benj. Bullard, " dog,	1 00	
Geo. A. Flemming,	1 35-	\$42 94

TOWN LIABILITIES.

Cong. Society Note, given by John Dodge, \$	200 00	
Alfred Rogers, March 3d, 1886,	460 00	
Dorcos P. Flagg, March 3d, 1886,	926 00	
John W. Flagg, " " "	1,094 00	
C. S. A. Hodgkins,	94 06	
Wesley Wilson, " " "	115 40	
Clara R. Whittemore, " " "	500 00	
Town Bonds " " "	10,000 00	\$13,389 46

Against the indebtedness we have the following assets :

Uncollected on Burt's list, 1880,	\$ 28 77	
“ “ Dodge's list, 1883,	197 29	
“ “ Griswold's list, 1885,	300 23	
S. A. Walker's note,	42 40	
Due from the County,	62 00	
Cash in Treasurer's hands,	319 84-	\$950 53
Net Liabilities,		\$12,438 93
“ “ March 3d, 1885,		13,421 67
Decrease of debt during the year,		\$982 74

Bennington, N. H., March 3d, 1886.

This certifies that we have this day examined the above report of the Selectmen and Treasurer and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

JOHN C. DODGE, }
FRED H. KIMBALL, } *Auditors.*

TOWN LIBRARY.

Your committee are highly gratified in being able to report your Library in good condition, as usual, and well patronized, At the present time there are 545 volumes. A few need repairing it is true, but no more than might be expected from the year's wear.

We extend thanks to Mr. J. F. Dodge and Miss Emily Whittemore for their gift of one book each and to Mrs. J. D. Butler for several magazines.

A pocket-book once belonging to Mr. Joseph Putnam who built the saw mill in this village, which was not a village then, has been presented to the Library by one of his descendents, and with it several old deeds pertaining to Society Land, now included in the town of Bennington.

The Librarian has received from the sale of catalogues, and fines, \$5 30. She has paid for kerosene oil, paper for covering books, etc., 87 cents. There is now in her hands, 51 cents, which includes 8 cents, as per last report.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. H. KIMBALL,	} <i>Library Com.</i>
A. B. LAWRENCE,	
JOHN F. DODGE,	

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr.

Cash brought over from 1885,	\$16 64	
From Rev. Mr. Heald, proceeds of two lectures,	12 00	
Feb. 24, 1886, from Librarian, cash rec'd for catalogues and fines,	4 00	
Feb. 27, from the Selectmen as per vote of the town,	10 00-	\$42 64

Cr.

May 21, paid for blank book for Librarian's use,	\$ 1 00	
July 2, paid E. I. Dodge for 1 set steps for use in Library,	1 50	
Cash on hand,	40 14-	\$42 64

JOHN F. DODGE, *Treasurer.*

REPORT OF SEXTON TO MARCH 3^d 1886.

NAME.	AGE. y.m d.	DIED. 1885.	DISEASE.	PLACE OF INTEMENT.
Mrs. A. O. Eaton	64 4	Nov. 19	Disease of the Nervous system.	Bennington.
" Eliza Woodbridge				Ando'r Mas
" Dorcas E. Gillis	72 8	Dec. 11	Scrofula	Bennington.
Elizabeth Norton	6 10	" 23	Malignant Scarlet fever.	"

Brought to this place for interment.

Brought from.				
Mrs. Lousia S. Dinsmore.	75	Aug. 2.	Apoplexia Sanguinea.	Franc'town.

Respectfully Submitted,

F. A. Taylor, Sexton.

New Hampshire State Library



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